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A process for preparing a supported chitosan biosorbent useful for the treatment of wastewater which comprises preparing a ceramic support material, preparing a chitosan gel, and coating said chitosan gel to said ceramic support material.

- 2. The process of claim 1 wherein a second surface coating of chitosan gel is applied to said supported chitosan biosorbent.
- 3. The process of claim 1 wherein said ceramic support material comprises acid treated alumina prepared by drying ceramic alumina, mixing the dry ceramic alumina with an acid to form a mixture, filtering and washing the mixture to prepare a washed mixture, and drying the washed mixture.
- 4. The process of claim 1 wherein said chitosan gel is prepared by dissolving chitosan in an acid.
 - 5. The process of claim 4 wherein said acid is an organic acid.

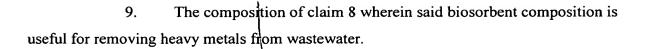
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- 6. The process of claim 5 wherein said organic acid is selected from the group consists of acetic and oxalic acid.
- 7. The process of claim wherein said chitosan-coated biosorbent is filtered under a vacuum, washed, dried and coated with a second layer of chitosan gel.
 - A biosorbent composition comprising a support material coated with chitosan useful for the treatment of wastewater.

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- 10. The composition of claim 8 wherein said support material comprises a ceramic support material.
- 11. The composition of claim 8 wherein said biosorbent composition is prepared by dip coating chitosan gel on to said support material.
- 12. The composition of claim 11 wherein said support material comprises a ceramic support material.
- 13. The composition of claim 10 wherein said biosorbent composition is prepared by spin coating chitosan gel on to said support material.
- 14. The composition of claim 13 wherein said support material comprises a ceramic support material.
- A process for treating aqueous systems containing heavy metals comprising adding a chitosan-coated biosorbent to an aqueous system.
- 16. The process of claim 15 wherein said chitosan-coated biosorbent comprises a support material coated with chitosan gel.
- 25 17. The process of claim 15 wherein said support material comprises a ceramic support material.
 - 18. The process of claim 15 wherein the aqueous systems are aqueous waste streams.

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19. A biosorbent composition comprising a support material coated with chitosan, its equivalents and the like useful for the treatment for wastewater.

20. A process for preparing a biosorbent useful for the treatment of wastewater which comprises preparing a ceramic support material, preparing a gel, and coating said gel to said ceramic support material, wherein said gel comprises chitosan, its equivalents and the like.

21. A process for treating aqueous systems containing heavy metals comprising adding a biosorbent to an aqueous system, wherein said biosorbent comprises a coating of chitosan, its equivalents and the like.

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